

SPACESHIP AWAY

Part 1

The Original

DAN DARE

**returns in new stories
and more . . .**



KEITH WATSON

Including in this issue . . .

Keith Watson - Last ever artwork

First three episodes of the PHOENIX MISSION

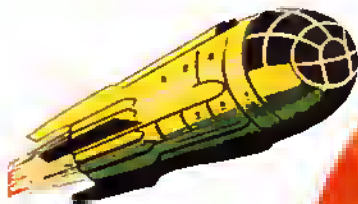
Marco Polo - Flight Deck Centre Spread

How the Project all began . . . plus DAN BEAR!

DAN DARE

Pilot of the Future

Spaceship Away 1 - November 2003



DAN DARE

Pilot of the Future

50s style
artwork and new
stories.

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Asgard & The Brotherhood Reconquering the World!

SIDE BY SIDE -



A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Hi there!

Welcome to the first of a series of magazines bringing you a brand new 1950's style *Dan Dare* saga that has been in the making for years. (Drawn by Frank Hampson team artists *Keith Watson* and *Don Harley*).

The history behind the project is a tale in itself, and as a tribute to all who have been involved, this story will be told as well.

Plus, as a number of other teams are also producing new *Dan Dare* material we hope to feature this too, along with anything else that readers might wish to see. (*Comments please!*)

The aim is to bring out *SPACESHIP AWAY* three times a year, (October, February and June) and it will first serialise *The Phoenix Mission* (told in four parts) followed by the *Green Nemesis* saga.

So good reading everyone . . .

Rod Barzilay

Rod Barzilay



EDITORIAL ADDRESS

8 MARLEY CLOSE - PRESTON - WEYMOUTH - DORSET - DT3 6DH

Contents . . .

- 1 (*Front cover*) - Keith Watson's Anastasia leaving the Red Moon.
- 2 **ROLE CALL OF PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS . . .**
- 3 **DAILY WORLD POST** - preamble.
- 5 - 10 **THE PHOENIX MISSION** - opening episodes.
- 11 **IN THE BEGINNING** - how the venture started.
- 12 - 13 **CENTRE SPREAD** - Keith Watson's *Marco Polo* Flight Deck.
- 14 **THE DWP STORY . . .**
- 15 **DAILY WORLD POST** - first edition.
- 16 **THE LAUNCH . . .**
- 17 **THE FABULOUS MEKON . . .**
- 18 - 19 **THE KEITH WATSON TOUCH . . .**
- 20 **DARK DAYS AND TRAGIC EVENTS . . .**
- 21 **FROM THE ASHES, THE PHOENIX RISES . . .**
- 22 **THE FIRST EAGLE DAY . . .**
- 23 **COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES . . .**
- 24 (*Back cover*) - The adventures of Dan Bear by *Andy Boyce*.

ROLE CALL OF PROJECT CONTRIBUTORS . . .

When I started the Phoenix project in 1991, I had no idea of what I was getting into or the fire it would light in myself and other *Dan Dare* fans. After years of being frustrated with the misrepresentation of our hero, this attempt to bring back the original acted as a *catalyst*. Before I knew it, fans from all walks of life were pitching in, each doing their bit.

Ex Eagle staff, artists, writers, doctors, bankers, teachers, civil servants, designers, reps, shopkeepers, musicians, the list goes on and is still growing - all keen to resurrect that something special the 1950's Dare always had.

To date, more than 70 *Dan Dare* fans have played a role in this venture. Between them we've had Frank Hampson references and photos supplied, dialogue and equipment refinements suggested, astronomical and 1950's research done, hardware models made, constructive criticism offered, publicity in a number of places, financial help, contacts with people hard to reach, plus consistent moral support even in tough times. Each contribution, *big or small*, has been important - a true team effort aimed at a better finished project. *Without these enthusiasts*, this couldn't have happened, or still be happening as the *Green Nemesis* venture continues to move forward.

Here, *with last names in alphabetical order*, are the people who have in some way or another been part of the dream so far :-

David Ampleford	Dave Gibbons	Alan Murray	Howard Smith
Ray Aspden	David Gould	Reggie Musgrave	Denis Steeper
Martin Baines	Don Harley	Paul Napp	Kev Sutherland
Mike Baker	Roy Haskett	Bill Naylor	John Swan
Graham Bleathman	John Hudson	Tony O'Sullivan	Fay Symes
Mathew Bookman	Patrick Hawkey	Gill Page	David Thompson
Andy Boyce	Roy Henderson	Adrian Perkins	Greta Tomlinson
David Britton	Ted Herbert	Joan Porter	Alan Vince
Sid Clark	Mike Higgs	Andy Preston	Peter Walker
Andrew Coffey	Nicholas Hill	Geoff Provins	Keith Watson
David Colley	Keith Howard	David Pugh	Beverley Watson
Roger Combes	Paul Jenks	John Ridgway	Dave Westaway
Howard Corn	Terry Jones	Bob Rothwell	Ian Wheeler
Tony Cowley	Sydney Jordan	William Rudling	Derek Wilson
Alastair Crompton	Stephen Law	Eckart Schott	Mike Wood
Gordon Daniel	Gordon Mathews	Ken Seery	John Woodland
Terry Doyle	Nick McCarty	Nick Setchfield	Ken Wootton
Ron French	Kathy Miles	Desmond Shaw	John Worton
Simon Garrett	Austin Mitchelson	Andrew Skilleter	Norman Wright

MY THANKS TO YOU ALL

DAILY WORLD POST

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ENGLISH EDITION

THE HULTON PAPER

LONDON

I.S.F. TO PROBE SPACE GRAVE-YARD

BY SIMON GARRETT, SPACE FLEET CORRESPONDENT

Aden hero will lead high-risk mission

New York Friday. At a Universal Solar News Conference today, top UN officials announced that Pilot-Major Steve Vallant is to command the refitted twin-drive survey ship "Marco Polo" on Operation Phoenix; a bid to salvage much needed spacecraft from the mysterious "Sargasso Sea of Space".

The first assignment is to recover the Z-19 craft that was trapped in the hitherto unknown area of lost space ships as a result of enemy action in 2002. The Z-19 is believed to be the almost AI coedition thanks to the efforts of two SF Officers, Pilot Captain Bob "Crusoe" King and Pilot Angus "Friday" MacFarlane, who were stranded on her for nine years. They will be returning as guides on this mission.

Other lost Space Fleet craft will be surveyed with salvage limited, and their flight data boxes recovered. Professor Jocelyn Peabody, the well-known research scientist and space explorer, is also accompanying the team to advance her food research programme.

The unexplained "Sargasso Sea of Space" is well outside the Impulse power flight paths which puts it beyond reach of most spacecraft. This means that should the "Marco Polo" run into difficulties the crew will be very much on their own.

Major Vallant received accelerated promotion for his leadership of Space Fleet Underground at the Aden prison camp during the Mekon's occupation. He is considered one of the Fleet's most promising officers, and has handled his task force for this mission.

Food for the Stars



Professor Peabody

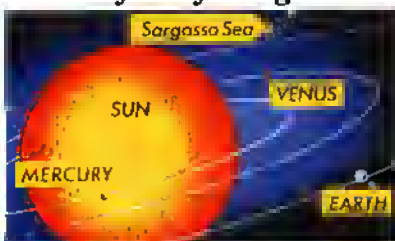
A secondary mission of Operation Phoenix may have prolonged consequences. Professor Peabody will be evaluating the hydrotank plant life that Captain Kleg and Pilot MacFarlane cultured in order to serve for nine years. She believes that it could be developed to provide essential nutrition on interstellar voyages.

A Valiant crew...

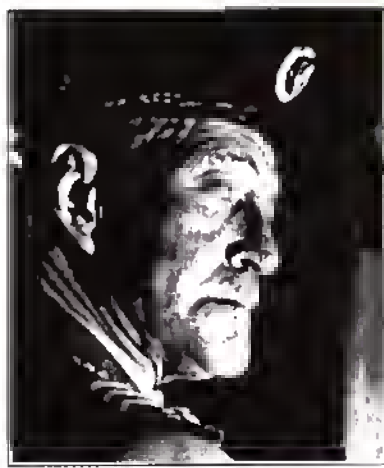
ISF HQ has listed the full roster of personnel assigned to Operation Phoenix:

Pilot Major Steve Vallant	(Commanding Officer)
Pilot Captain Terry Albright	(First Flight Officer)
Pilot John Dexter	(Second Flight Officer)
Pilot Captain Bob King	(Acting Guide)
Pilot Angus MacFarlane	(Acting Guide)
Dr. Barry Dawson	(Medical Officer)
Engineer Captain Mark Straight	(Construction & Hull Maintenance)
Engineer Luke Newman	(Construction & Hull Maintenance)
Engineer Trevor Phillips	(Construction & Hull Maintenance)
Engineer Captain Bud Johnson	(Rocket Technician)
Engineer James Hutton	(Rocket Technician)
Engineer Raymond Masters	(Radio and Radar Technician)
Engineer Ben Ackroyd	(Radio and Radar Technician)
Engineer Roger Deacon	(Impulse Wave Technician)
Engineer Peter Goodwin	(Electrical Technician)
Spaceman (1st Class) Sam Beaker	(General Duties)
Spaceman (1st Class) Tom Wheeler	(General Duties)
Spaceman (1st Class) Norman Collins	(General Duties)
Spaceman (1st Class) Ron Sharp	(General Duties)
Spaceman (2nd Class) Henry Potts	(General Duties)
Spaceman (2nd Class) Edward White	(General Duties)
Spaceman (2nd Class) Allen Clark	(General Duties)
Spaceman (2nd Class) Terence Carter	(General Duties)
Professor Jocelyn Mabel Peabody	(Civilian Scientist)

Mystery Target



The Sargasso Sea of Space lies in the uncharted wastes of "Space North" - between the orbits of Mercury and Venus, but above the plane of the Solar System. Maybe this is why it wasn't discovered earlier. But why are all the damaged ships there? Scientists remain baffled.



Sir Hubert Guest, KCB, OM, OUN, DSO, DFC

Sir Hubert Guest, Controller of International Space Fleet, was questioned on leaving the conference about the dangers of this operation. He made the following statement. "As pointed out at the briefing, Marco Polo's objective lies well beyond large-scale wave range - in uncharted space. Certainly there is danger, but the Fleet badly needs more ships and a successful salvage operation could save months of construction work. The risk is fully justified. I have full confidence in Major Vallant - his service record proves him to be a highly responsible officer. Moreover, the Fleet Construction Branch has completed a first class re-fit of the Marco Polo. The mission has every chance of success." him

COMMENT

Two Cheers for ISF

This newspaper has never hesitated to voice its concern when great institutions are in dereliction of their duty. We attacked Vismiteals proliferating in 1995. We attacked ISF's failure to track Leo's Crypt ship in 2001. Today we are happy to award a laurel wreath. All thinking people will welcome ISF's early and enterprising return to active service following the loss of so much hardware and disintegration of its command structure. The recent war: The Fleet is dangerously overstretched in its system, with recruitment Major Vallant's expedition is a welcome move towards relieving this situation.

Why only two cheers? The editor is reserving the third till he hears the all-important words. "Mission accomplished"....

Bad Ads?

The self-appointed child guardians are still in business. First they condemned the Tommy Walls revival (encourages obesity). Now they attack the Toy Selektrobot (encourages violence). What's their next target? - the Junior Melium MKV?

"Space Sailor" Back to Sea

Commander "Inky" Les O'Malley, hero of many a fight against Piracy and Treen, is switching from the seas of space back to the seven seas of Earth. The colorful sub-mariner has rejoined the Royal Navy active list. His hydrofoil ship "Poseidon" will soon complete re-fitting and is scheduled for marine conservancy patrol in the Arabian Sea.

Boys! Be the first in your gang with a

SELEKTROBOT

Authentic scale model designed from Treen records

IT SHOOTS! FROM

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IT'S SUPERSONIC CHAPS!

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1987-2012

Silver Jubilee of

EAGLETIMES

Hologram Issue

Full of facts, fun and features on the fabulous Jubilee paper

EAGLE

Details from Howard Conn 01604 756200

SUPER NEW DAN DARE SPACE ADVENTURE BEGINS TODAY!

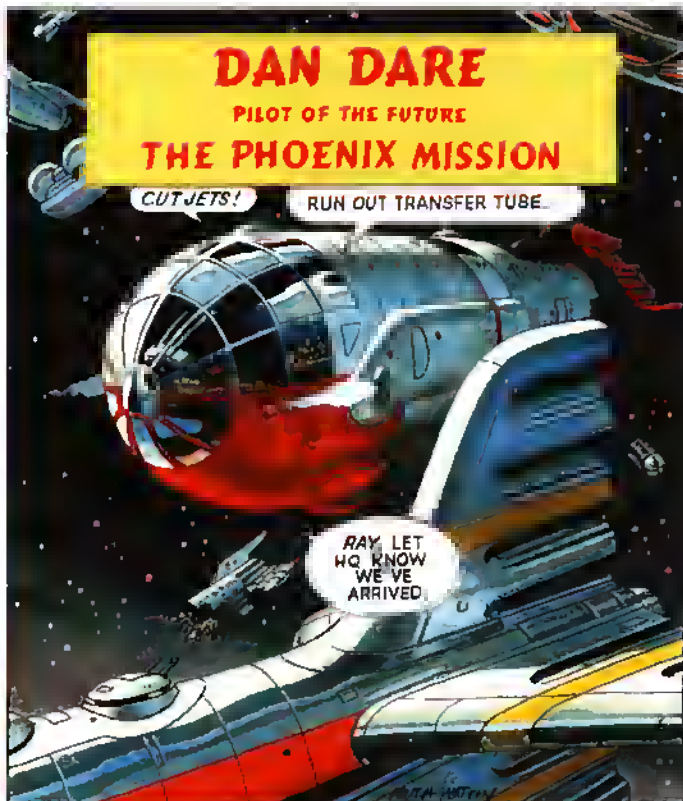
EAGLE

EVERY WEDNESDAY



4th

COMPANION TO GULF, SWIFT AND ROBIN.



DAN DARE

PILOT OF THE FUTURE

THE PHOENIX MISSION

CUTJETS!

RUN OUT TRANSFER TUBE.

RAY, LET
HQ KNOW
WE'VE
ARRIVED

2012 AD

It is some months after the defeat of the Nekon and his robot armies.

Earth is busy rebuilding and Space Fleet resources are thinly spread as few spacecraft remain serviceable. The urgent need to restore its stock of ships leads the I.S.F. to look into a number of options.

Out of range of standard Space Fleet vessels, the re-fitted deep-space craft MARCO POLO arrives at the SARGASSO SEA OF SPACE.

(A strange "backwash" area in the Solar System where for some unknown reason such space debris has accumulated.)

The primary mission is to locate the abandoned ship that was abandoned there

WELL, FRIDAY —
DIDN'T THINK WE'D
EVER SEE THE OLD
GIRL AGAIN.

AYE WONDER IF
SHE MISSED US?



MARCO POLO
CALLING EARTH...
COME IN CONTROL...

SIR — I CAN'T
RAISE ANYONE.

SO MUCH FOR OUR SPECIAL RADIO
THE BOFFINS SAID WOULD WORK
ANYWHERE! — RUN FAULT
ANALYSIS.

THAT CAN'T
BE HERE!

STEVE!



WHAT IS IT,
PROFESSOR?

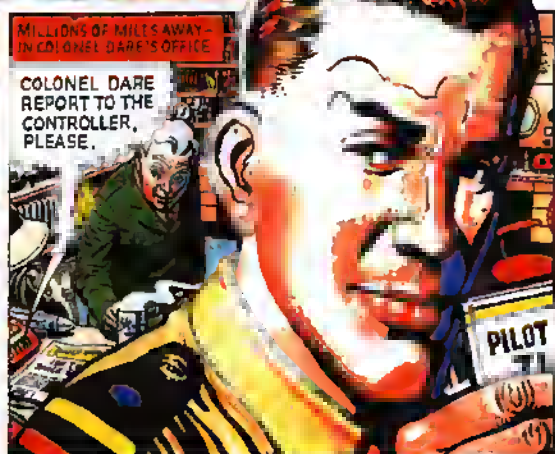
THAT
SPACESHIP DOWN
THERE — I SAW IT
CRASH AND EXPLODE
YEARS AGO. IT CAN'T
BE HERE UNSCATHED
— WE MUST
INVESTIGATE!

NO! SORRY PROFESSOR —
MY BRIEF IS CLEAR. ONE,
RECOVER THE Z-19 SPACE-
CRAFT. TWO, CATALOGUE
AND ASSESS CONDITION
OF OTHER EARTH CRAFT,
COLLECTING FLIGHT DATA
BOXES IF POSSIBLE. THREE,
ASSIST YOUR BOTANICAL
RESEARCH. BUT ON NO
ACCOUNT LEAVE THE LEFT
SHIPS. STAND-OFF PHOTOS
ONLY UNLESS HQ CLEARS IT.

NO CHANCE OF
CLEARANCE WITH THE
RADIO ON THE BLINK —
I MUST FIND A WAY.

MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY —
IN COLONEL DARE'S OFFICE

COLONEL DARE
REPORT TO THE
CONTROLLER,
PLEASE.



AH, DAN—COME IN. WE'VE LOST TOUCH WITH THE MARCO POLO, AND FRANKLY I'M WORRIED.

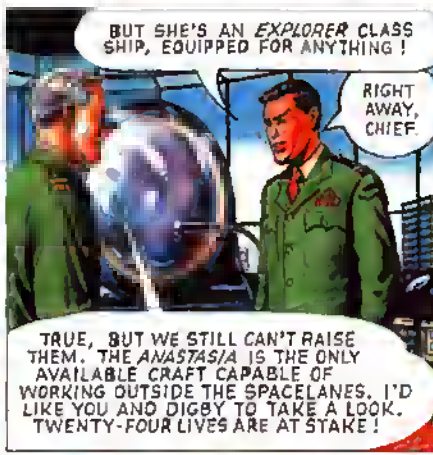
WHEELER
SIR MURPHY QUEST
KOL. BR. ONE TWO ZERO
SPACE FLEET OPERATIONS



BUT SHE'S AN EXPLORER CLASS SHIP, EQUIPPED FOR ANYTHING!

RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF

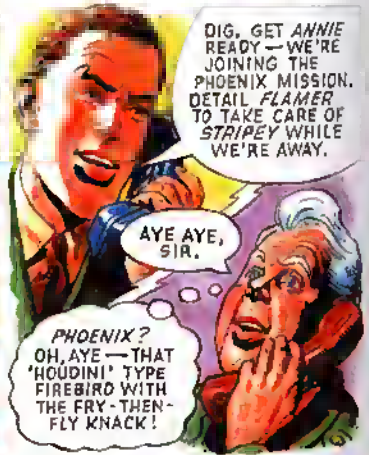
TRUE, BUT WE STILL CAN'T RAISE THEM. THE ANASTASIA IS THE ONLY AVAILABLE CRAFT CAPABLE OF WORKING OUTSIDE THE SPACELANES. I'D LIKE YOU AND DIGBY TO TAKE A LOOK. TWENTY-FOUR LIVES ARE AT STAKE!



DIG, GET ANNIE READY—WE'RE JOINING THE PHOENIX MISSION. DETAIL FLAMER TO TAKE CARE OF STRIPEY WHILE WE'RE AWAY.

AYE AYE, SIR.

PHOENIX? OH, AYE—THAT 'HOODINI' TYPE FIREBIRD WITH THE FRY-THEN-FLY KNACK!



ASTRAL COLLEGE—FLAMER'S DORMITORY...

AH, FLAMER LAD, THE COLONEL AND I ARE ON DPS. COULD YOU LOOK AFTER STRIPEY UNTIL WE GET BACK?

YOU BET, DIGBY SIR. HI, STRIPEY OLD PAL!



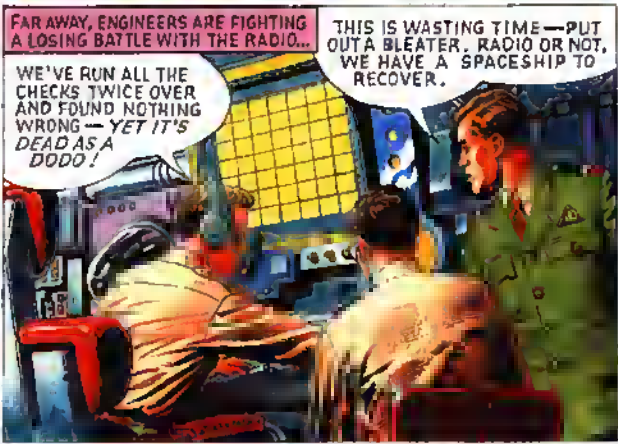
DEEP SPACE—HERE WE COME!



FAR AWAY, ENGINEERS ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE WITH THE RADIO...

WE'VE RUN ALL THE CHECKS TWICE OVER AND FOUND NOTHING WRONG—YET IT'S DEAD AS A DODO!

THIS IS WASTING TIME—PUT OUT A BLEATER. RADIO OR NOT, WE HAVE A SPACESHIP TO RECOVER.

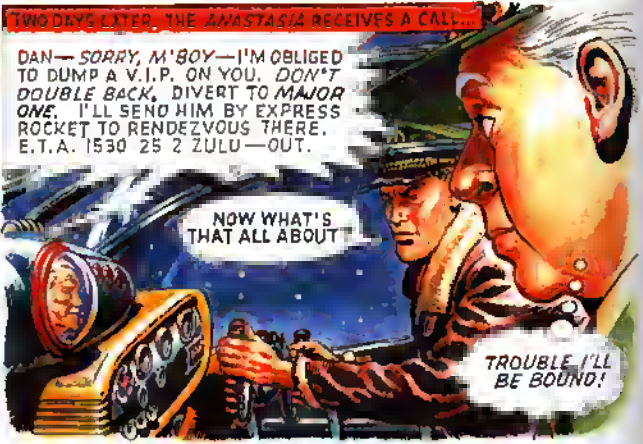


TWO DAYS LATER, THE ANASTASIA RECEIVES A CALL...

DAN—SORRY, M'BOY—I'M OBLIGED TO DUMP A V.I.P. ON YOU. DON'T DOUBLE BACK, DIVERT TO MAJOR ONE. I'LL SEND HIM BY EXPRESS ROCKET TO RENDEZVOUS THERE. E.T.A. 1530 25 2 ZULU—OUT.

NOW WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

TROUBLE I'LL BE BOUND!



HOWEVER, TROUBLE IS ALREADY BREWING AT MAJOR ONE—A SATELLITE SPACE STATION BETWEEN EARTH AND MOON...

BUT I MUST GET BACK TO MARS—MY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH!



DR. DARE—I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WANGLED YOUR WAY THIS FAR, BUT WE'VE BARELY ENOUGH SHIPS TO SUPPLY THE MARTIAN COLONY AS IT IS—AND YOU EXPECT ME TO LAY ON TRANSPORT JUST SO YOU CAN IG HOLES ON MARS?

IDIOT! I CAN'T UNRAVEL THE MARTIAN MYSTERIES FROM HERE!



BUT FATE IS WEAVING ITS WEB FOR THEM ALL, ELSEWHERE, AN ANCIENT, DORMANT MENACE IS QUIETLY RIDING ITS TIME.



CONTINUED

EAGLE

EVERY WEDNESDAY



4^{1d}/₂

COMPANION TO GIRL, SWIFT AND ROBIN

DAN DARE PILOT OF THE FUTURE THE PHOENIX MISSION



DOCK AT BAY 2,
COLONEL DARE.

I WONDER IF
OUR MYSTERIOUS
PASSENGER HAS
ARRIVED YET?

IT'S RIGHT SPOOKY,
SIR—IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER, I'D
SWEAR WE WERE
BACK AT MARS.

UM, THAT RED MOON
CAPER—UNCLE IVOR AND
ALL. BUT THEN MAJOR ONE
IS THE TWIN OF THE OLD
MARS SPACE STATION.

UNCLE
IVOR!

EE, HIMSELF!

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN—
CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO MARS!

STILL TEARING
AROUND IN
THAT FLYING
GREENHOUSE
OF YOURS,
HULL!

ER,
UNCLE...

INCOMING EARTH
FLIGHT DOCKING
CREW TO BAY 1.

EARTH FLIGHT—
THAT'S OUR MAN!

HANK—
PIERRE!

DANNY BOY!

MON AMI!

MORE
LIKE MARS
STATION
EVERY MINUTE!

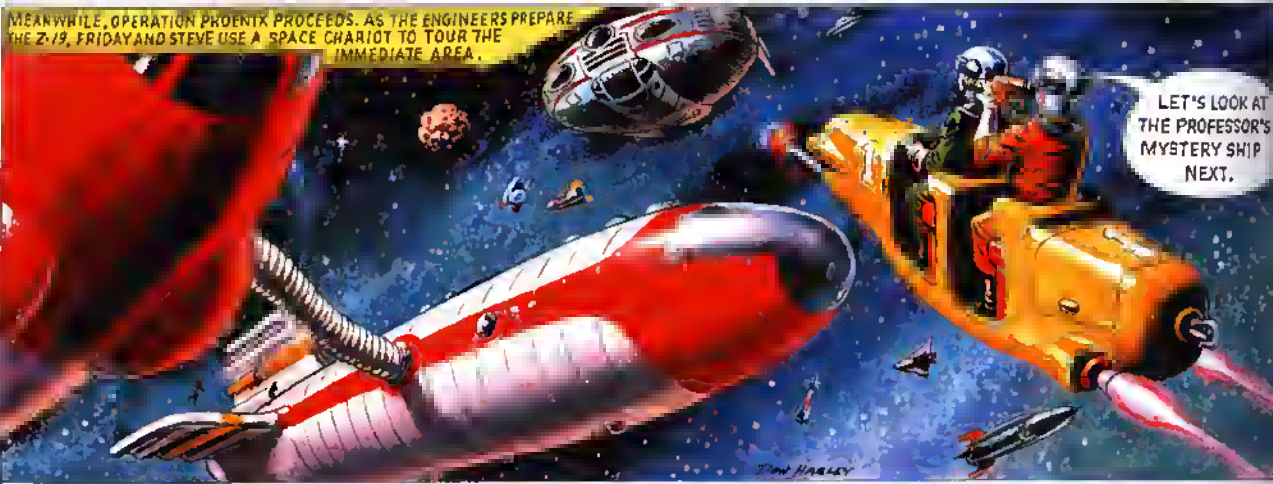
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE
MY PASSENGERS!

US! GLORY BE,
NO—WE'RE JUST
THE ESCORT.

GOOD TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN,
COLONEL.

AFFAIRE
D'HONNEUR—AN
OLD FRIEND, YOU
MIGHT SAY.

MEANWHILE, OPERATION PHOENIX PROCEEDS. AS THE ENGINEERS PREPARE THE Z-19, FRIDAY AND STEVE USE A SPACE CHARIOT TO TOUR THE IMMEDIATE AREA.



LET'S LOOK AT THE PROFESSOR'S MYSTERY SHIP NEXT.

ABOARD THE DELAWARE, A ONCE-PROUD SPACE LINER. AIR, POWER, GRAVITY... I'M IMPRESSED. HOW COME, CAPTAIN KING?



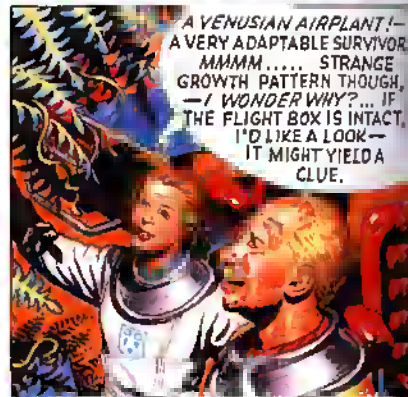
ONLY THIS AREA, PROFESSOR. A METEOR CRIPPLED THE DRIVE, AND THE CREW ABANDONED SHIP LEAVING AUTOMATICS ON. WHEN WE FOUND HER, THIS DECK STILL HAD AIR AND POWER. WE RESTORED THE LOCAL GRAVITY MOTORS AND GREW FOOD HERE.

THIS SHOULD HELP LONG-TERM SPACESHIP ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH. WAS THERE ANY OTHER PLANT LIFE APART FROM THE SEEDS YOU PLANTED?



YES, IN THE PASSENGER LOUNGE.

COULD YOU SHOW ME?



A VENUSIAN AIRPLANT!—A VERY ADAPTABLE SURVIVOR. MMMM..... STRANGE GROWTH PATTERN THOUGH—I WONDER WHY?... IF THE FLIGHT BOX IS INTACT, I'D LIKE A LOOK—IT MIGHT YIELD A CLUE.

I'LL CHECK—THE MAJOR WANTS IT ANYWAY.

ON THE MARCO POLO, RAY CONFRONTS THE COMMUNICATIONS CONSOLE AGAIN.



NOW TO SORT YOU OUT!



RE-UNION ON MAJOR ONE.

NIKKI!—OUR ALLY FROM SATURN!

EE LAD—IT'S REET GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I'M NOW THE SATURNIAN AMBASSADOR TO EARTH...

AFTER YOU LEFT EARTH, HQ PICKED UP A BLEATER* MESSAGE FROM THE MARCO POLO.—'HAVE ARRIVED OK, BUT RADIO FAILED. PEABODY QUERY: HOW COULD THARL'S FLAGSHIP BE HERE—WHEN IT EXPLODED IN THE BATTLE FOR TITAN?'



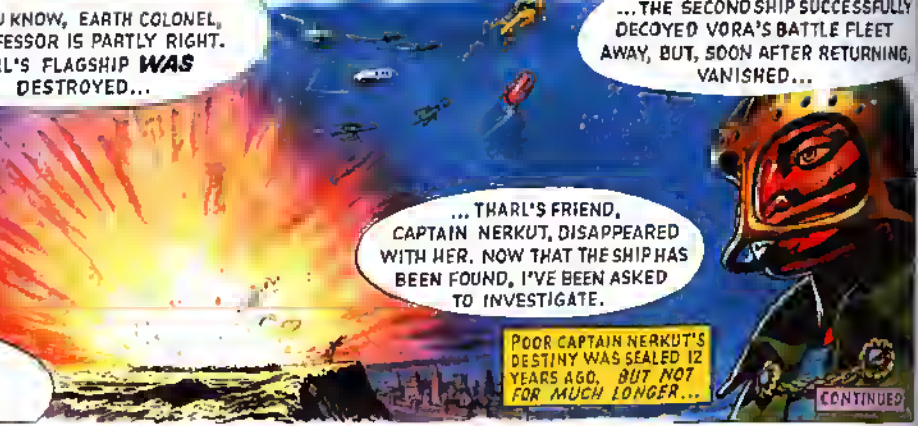
NATURALLY, SIR HUBERT CONTACTED THE SATURNIAN EMBASSY.

*BLEATER—A SPACE MESSAGE ROCKET. AS IT TRAVELS, IT CONTINUOUSLY TRANSMITS A RECORDED MESSAGE WHICH IS PASSED ON WHEN IN RECEIVER RANGE.



AS YOU KNOW, EARTH COLONEL, THE PROFESSOR IS PARTLY RIGHT. THARL'S FLAGSHIP WAS DESTROYED...

... BUT, LIKE MANY OTHERS, SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THARL HAD TWO IDENTICAL SHIPS TO FOOL THE ROTHAS...



...THE SECOND SHIP SUCCESSFULLY DECEYED VORA'S BATTLE FLEET AWAY, BUT, SOON AFTER RETURNING, VANISHED...

... THARL'S FRIEND, CAPTAIN NERKUT, DISAPPEARED WITH HER. NOW THAT THE SHIP HAS BEEN FOUND, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE.

POOR CAPTAIN NERKUT'S DESTINY WAS SEALED 12 YEARS AGO, BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER...

CONTINUED

EAGLE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

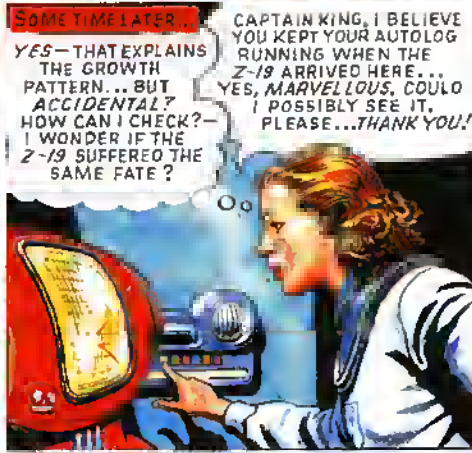
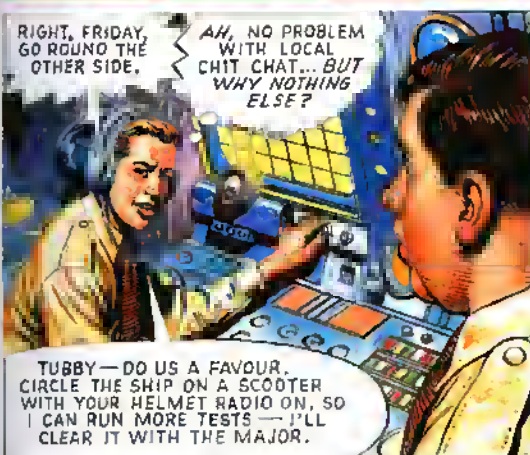


4^{1d}/₂

COMPANION TO GIRL, SWIFT AND ROBIN

DAN DARE

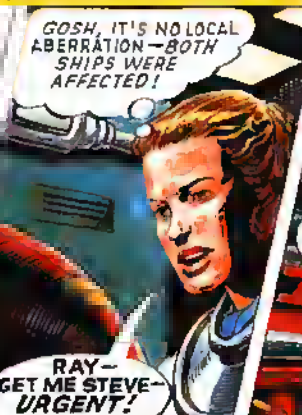
PILOT OF THE FUTURE
THE PHOENIX MISSION



THE TWO INVESTIGATORS GET RESULTS, BUT NOT WHAT THEY EXPECTED...



RAY, HOW MUCH LONGER?
I'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR
AGES, AND I'M GETTING
HUNGRY...



GOSH, IT'S NO LOCAL
ABERRATION—BOTH
SHIPS WERE
AFFECTED!

RAY—
GET ME STEVE—
URGENT!

POTTS, YOU'RE FADING
OUT. TUBBY?... SPAT...
POTTS, CAN YOU HEAR ME?



BUT, UNCLE, WE'RE JOINING THE PHOENIX MISSION—
NOT GOING TO MARS!

EH?—WELL, DROP
ME OFF ON THE WAY
BACK, THEN.

UNCLE!—
THERE'S NOT
ENOUGH
ROOM!

ON MAJOR ONE—PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE...



EVERYTHING
ABOARD,
NIKKI?

YES,
EARTH
DAN.

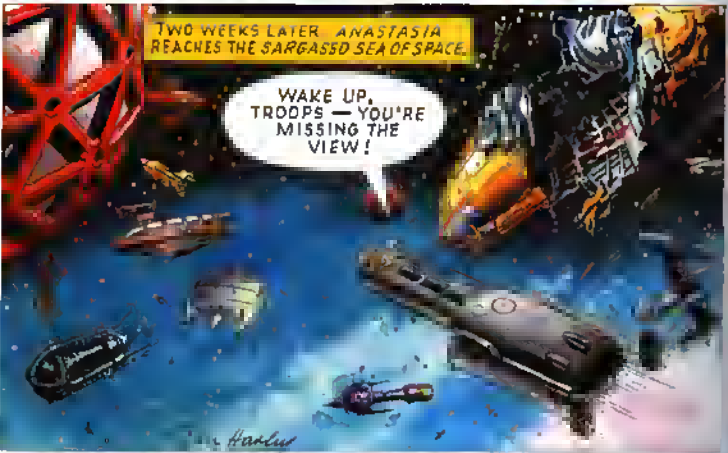
READY FOR THE
OFF YOUNG
DANIEL?

YOUNG PEOPLE
TODAY—NOT
ENOUGH ROOM
INDEED!



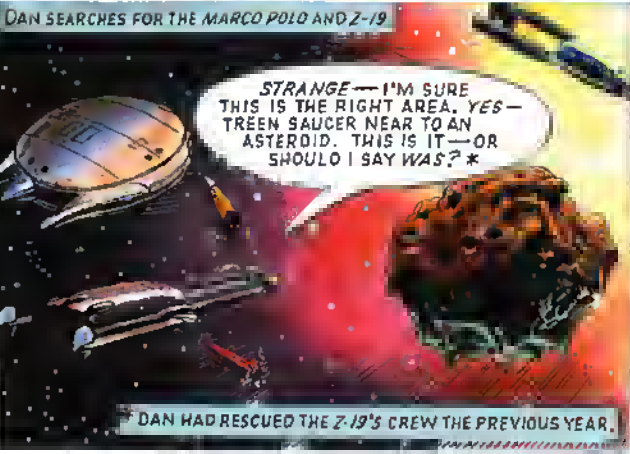
ROUND ONE:
DR DARE, ONE—
COLONEL DARE,
NIL!

PUT
A SOCK IN
IT, DIG!



TWO WEEKS LATER, ANASTASIA
REACHES THE SARGASSO SEA OF SPACE.

WAKE UP,
TROOPS—YOU'RE
MISSING THE
VIEW!



DAN SEARCHES FOR THE MARCO POLO AND Z-19

STRANGE—I'M SURE
THIS IS THE RIGHT AREA. YES—
GREEN SAUCER NEAR TO AN
ASTEROID. THIS IS IT—OR
SHOULD I SAY WAS? *

DAN HAD RESCUED THE Z-19'S CREW THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



BUT WHERE
IS EVERYONE,
SIR?

CONTINUED

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

It all started with a comment from **Dave Westaway** (June? 1991). On hearing that **Keith Watson** was doing *Dan Dare* commissions for fans, he suggested that we could link them up into a new story.

This gem of an idea had me bubbling with excitement, and I wasted no time in telephoning Keith. *(At that point I had already ordered a Sargasso Sea of Space commission from him).* He liked the concept, so I started contacting other fans.

This certainly stirred their interest, although some were sceptical that it could be done. Now we needed a story. At the time the only person to offer any was **Simon Garrett**, who had written some *Dan Dare* spin-off yarns. But that was the problem, *Dan wasn't in them!* *(Eagle Times was later to serialise one of his tales - TUNNEL OF TERROR.)*

Time rolled on, Christmas arrived and the plan still stalled for lack of a plot. To get us out of this rut I decided to try writing one myself, and in January 1992 starting bouncing my stumbling scripts off fans for comment. *(At least I gave them a few laughs, with my spelling blunders! All a bit crazy really - what a combination, a dyslexic writer and a colour-blind artist!)*

I dreamed of a big meaty *Dan Dare* saga, but Keith countered this saying we would never get enough sponsors for something that big. *(Individual fans were to sponsor the artwork, and Keith would take the completed project to Fleetway in the hope that if they took it up we would get our costs back, as well as the artwork to keep!)* He said, "Why not go for an *Eagle Annual* size story" (8 pages). I thought this was too short and aimed at eight episodes, which became nine - later extended to ten - as eight was too restricting.

Now that we had decided on episodes, Keith proposed we do it old *Eagle* style (red logo box and all!) to capture all the nostalgia that such an image would evoke - BRILLIANT!

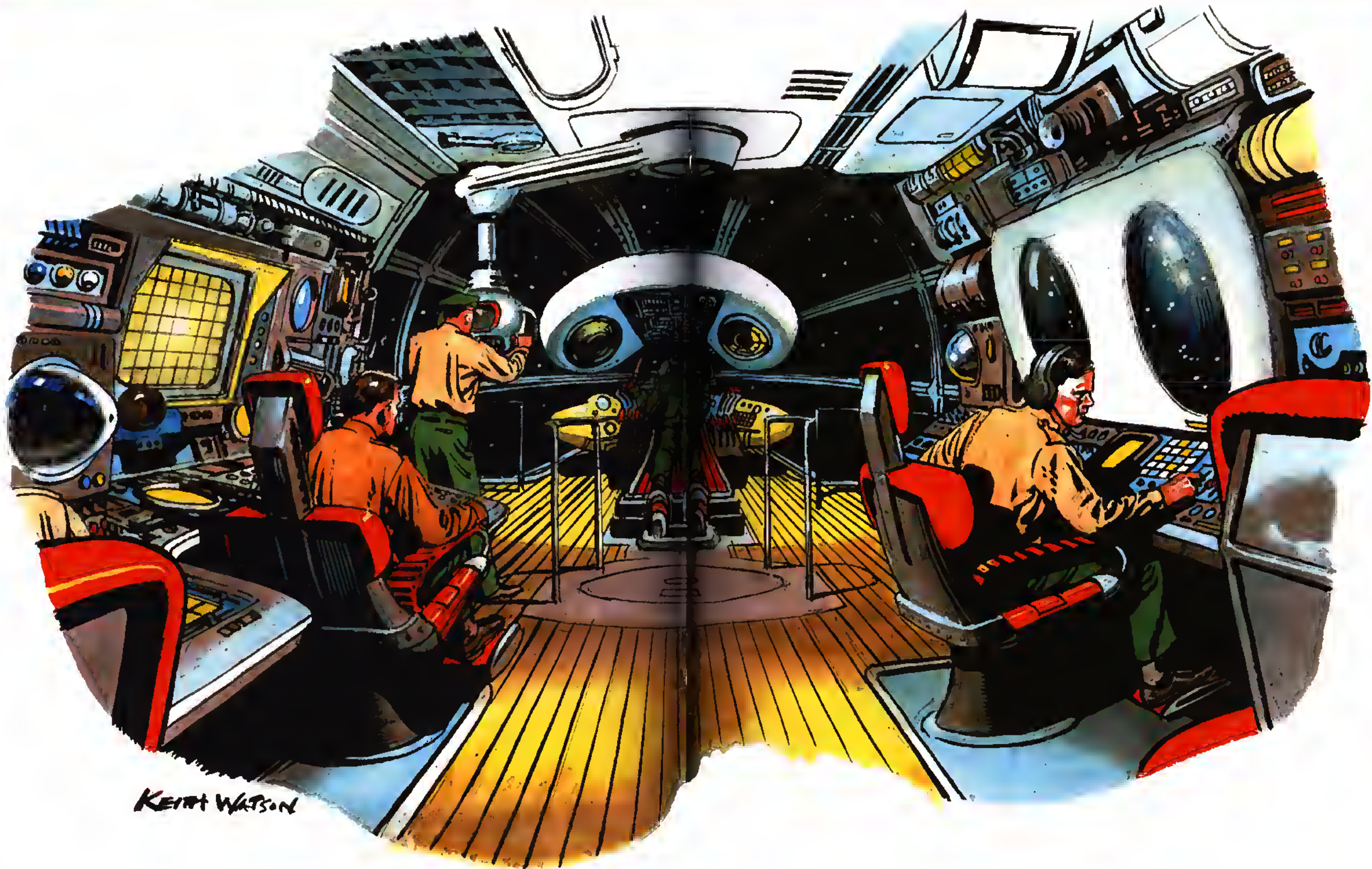
I set the yarn a few months after the end of *The Ship That Lived*, and before the *Phantom Fleet* tale - this being a natural gap to slip into. It also allowed me to draw on many established people and places already embedded in the *Dan Dare* world and follow up some of the loose ends that Frank Hampson had left us. *(Of course by starting the story in the Sargasso Sea of Space, I would get all those views too!)*

Keith approved the adventure outline, *(a condition of him taking on the project had been that he would have editorial control - he was fed up with having to do DD strips that were not true to the original.)* And, with him being invited to the Eagle Society's Annual Dinner Weekend in April, we thought this would be the ideal time to launch the enterprise.

I felt we needed something to launch the venture with, and recruited some fans to take up another Dave Westaway idea of a *Daily World Post* preamble page. This was rushed through just in time, and armed with this, plus three home-made paste-up boards I headed to the Epsom event full of enthusiasm . . .

Continues on page 14 . . .

THE MARCO POLO FLIGHT DECK



KEITH WATSON

THE DWP STORY . . .

When I first started scribbling the Phoenix Mission story, I was struggling with how to impart a lot of background information to the readers without burying them in dialogue. The best I had come up with at the time was a copy of Spacefleet orders for Steve Valiant. Then **Dave Westaway** had another of his outstanding brainstorms. "*What about a DAILY WORLD POST page?*" - **Absolutely GREAT!!!** A fabulous idea, not only could it fill in oodles of support stuff, but it would be *Dan Dare* kosher as well!

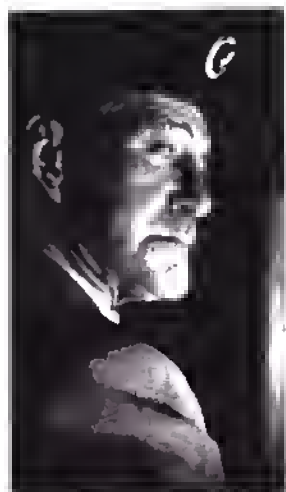
Now we needed someone who could word such a paper just right, and what fan did we have with just that kind of experience? **Simon Garrett!** - who was already a strong supporter of the project - *so I drafted him in.*

Next character photos were wanted, and **Andrew Skilleter** came up trumps here with some ex Frank Hampson studio shots that had not been used this way before.

Bill Rudling doctored them for us (*adding bits of uniform and things*), and then went on to produce the whole DWP page.

The first version (*on the adjoining page*) was rushed through for the official project launch weekend. Later it would be redone more than once with better quality pictures and revised text, as background details of the Phoenix Mission were refined - for example, Steve's "*Explorer*" spacecraft became the *Marco Polo (Explorer Class Spaceship)*, and its crew doubled in number.

ROBERT HAMPSON
(Sir Hubert)



GRETA TOMLINSON
(Professor Peabody)



THE ORIGINAL STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHS
BEFORE ANY ADDITIONS

MAX DUNLOP
("Friday" MacFarlane)



ROGER BEAVAN
("Crusoe" King)



DISPLAYED AT THE PHOENIX PROJECT MISSION LAUNCH
11th APRIL 1992

(ONE NOVAD) SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2012

DAILY WORLD POST

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN LONDON • NEW YORK • ST. PETERSBURG • BRASÍLIA • DELHI • TOKYO • CAPE TOWN • KUWAIT CITY • MELBOURNE • HAMBURG • MEXICO CITY • SINGAPORE • TAIPEI • TIANJIN

ENGLISH EDITION

THE HULTON PAPER

LONDON

I.S.F. TO PROBE SPACE GRAVE-YARD

Aden Hero will lead high-risk mission

New York Friday. At a Universal Solar News Conference today, top UN officials announced that Pilot-Major Steve Vallant is to command the re-fitted survey ship 'Explorer' on Operation Phoenix: a bid to salvage the Z-19 deep-space cruiser from the mysterious 'Sargasso Sea of Space'. The Z-19 was trapped in the hitherto unknown area of lost space ships as a result of enemy action in 2002. For nine years it was the castaway home of two SF officers, Pilot Captain Bob 'Cruace' Kleg, and Pilot Angus 'Friday' MacFarlane.



Commander Kleg



Friday MacFarlane

Food for the Stars



Professor Peabody

A secondary mission of Operation Phoenix may have profound consequences. Professor Jocelyne Peabody believes that hydrostatic plant life that Captain Kleg and Pilot MacFarlane cultivated in order to survive their nine year ordeal could be developed to provide essential nutrition on inter-stellar voyages, and will be available for its potential. The professor has had wide experience of dietary research on three planets.

A Vallant crew . . .

ISF HQ has recently released, en route in the DWP, the full roster of personnel assigned to Operation Phoenix:

- Pilot Major Steve Vallant (Commanding Officer)
- Pilot Tony Albright (Second Flight Officer)
- Engineer Captain Mark Straight (Construction and Hull Maintenance)
- Engineer Captain Had Johnson (Rocket Technician)
- Engineer Ray 'Sparks' Masters (Radio and Radar Technician)
- Engineer Roger Fusson (Impulse Wave Technician)
- Engineer Peter Goodwin (Electrical Technician)
- Pilot Captain Bob 'Cruace' Kleg (Acting Guide)
- Pilot Angus 'Friday' MacFarlane (Acting Guide)
- Professor Jocelyne Mabel Peabody (Civilian Scientist)
- Spaceman Sam Beaker (1st Class) (General Duties)
- Spaceman 'Tubby' Potts (2nd Class) (General Duties)

Albright, Straight and Potts were POWs with Vallant, and Professor Peabody is a well-known research scientist and space explorer.

Mystery Target



The Sargasso Sea of Space lies in the uncharted wastes of 'Space North' - between the orbits of Mercury and Venus but above the plane of the Solar System. This is why it has been so elusive. But what strange forces draw damaged ships there? Scientists remain baffled.

Jet-cricket clash

A vicious bumper barge by Atlantean bowler Matak maimed the Final Test between Venus and Mercury at Mekonta. The Marcurian's spindly limbs are highly vulnerable and their philosophy forbids retaliation. Sponsors, London/Lunar Organisation have expressed concern.



Sir Hubert Gwert, KCB, OM, CBE, DSO, DFC

Sir Hubert Gwert, Controller International Space Fleet was questioned on leaving the conference about the dangers of the mission, and the fact that if anything went wrong Space Fleet could do little to assist. He made this statement: 'As pointed out at the news meeting, this particular area of debris lies well out of the usual space lanes, and is beyond the range of impulse wave power transmission. The survey ship 'Explorer' which has just completed re-fitting will be able to switch to rocket power when outside impulse-wave range. It will also carry alternative radio technology. Although the first priority is to recover the Z-19, the team will survey the other remains in the area and collect light data boxes where possible. Professor Peabody, a very capable lady in her own right, is also going on the mission to follow up some research of her own. Major Vallant has proved he is a highly resourceful officer, and he has selected his team personally. I have every faith in his leadership and the excellent work put in by the ISF construction branch.'

Bad Ads?

The well-appointed child snafidiana are still in business. First they re-emerged the Tommy Wols revival (anticipates obesity). Now they attack the Toy Selektrobot (encourages violence). What's their next target? - The Junior Miumum Mk V?

'Space Sailor' Back to Sea

Commander 'Lucky' Lex O'Malley, hero of many a light agstee Phni and Treen, is switching from the seas of space to the seven seas of Earth. The colourful sub-mariner has rejoined the Royal Navy active list. His hydrofoil ship 'Poseidoe' will soon complete re-fitting and is scheduled for marine conservancy patrol in the Arbia Sea.

COMMENT

Two Cheers for ISF

This newspaper has never hesitated to voice its eccentric - where - gnost institutions are in dereliction of their duty. We attacked Viainineas prohibiting in 1995. We attacked ISF's failure to track Leno's Crypt ship in 2001. Today we are happy to sword a laetel wreath. All thinking people will welcome ISF's early and enterprising return to active service following the loss of so much hardware and disintegration of its command structure in the recent war. The Fleet is dangerously overextended in its system-wide commitments. Major Vallant's ascription is a welcome move towards relieving this situation.

Why only two cheers? The editor is reserving the third till he hears the all-important words: "Mission accomplished."

STOP PRESS

UN diplomats have warned the Explorer crew to avoid contact with Venusian and Saterian beings in the mysterious region, fearing pheromones in human semen may cause cross-fertilisation of complicity in the planet's servitude. Foreign, UN's security staff expect the same Phoenis.

EAGLE TIMES

1987 - 2012
Silver Jubilee



Boys be the first in your gang with a

IT TAKES IT TAKES IT TAKES

SELEKTROBOT
FROM
HORNBY
IT SHOOTS
"IT'S SUPERSONIC CHAPS!"

A Hornby/Hulton product. At all good toy shops.

Amateur scale model designed from three nurms.

The greatest thing since Spooel!
- Harry Corbett III

Great for the kid who...
"STRIPEY"
give puppet

Send postal order for 4 Novadator. American Soft Toy Company, Newark Street, Wigan, Lancs.

THE LAUNCH . . .



Rod Barzilay (left) and Keith Watson (right)
Take their places in front of the *Eagle* fans.

4pm on a glorious sunny Saturday afternoon (11th April 1992), *Rod Barzilay* and *Keith Watson* took their places at the presentation table in the White House Hotel, Epsom. It was the *Eagle* Society's Annual Dinner Weekend, and this year's theme - *Dan Dare*. Three of *Frank Hampson's* team were present as guests, along with a quarter of the Society's membership; *there was magic in the air!*

Having only met for the first time about an hour before. (*Keith arrived asking, "Which one's Rod?"*). The enthusiastic duo were about to formally launch a new fan sponsored, 1950's format *Dan Dare* adventure project appropriately called **The Phoenix Mission**. (*A double meaning title, not only the name of the tale but an enterprise to raise our hero from the ashes to his former self!*)

A large *Daily World Post* had greeted everybody as they turned up and now *Rod* was waving A2 size story-board layouts of the first episode (*dialogue boxes only !*) and a *Sargasso Sea of Space* reference chart at them. Whatever they made of this I don't know, but *Keith* set everyone's imagination on fire when he said he intended to produce the strip the old *Frank Hampson* way; *Roughs, photos, visuals, the lot - WOW!*

And to give the fans some idea of the quality they would get, later that evening *Roger Coombes* put on display the *Mekon* board *Keith* had done for him. *Needless to say half the story boards were booked by the end of the weekend!*



The Sargasso Sea of Space chart



Episode 1, frame layouts

THE FABULOUS MEKON . . .

THE COMMISSION THAT KEITH WATSON DID FOR ROGER COOMBS

Not only did it have the requested Mekon, but all kinds of Treens with their hardware, in Mekonta as well!



THE KEITH WATSON TOUCH . . .

Keith's pedigree with *Dan Dare* was a special one. He had grown up as a fan of the strip, then applied and got a job working with Frank Hampson's team on it. *So he really understood what fans liked and cared about.* When he was brought back to work on it in the sixties and *New Eagle* in the late eighties, he did his best to reinstate such things but was often frustrated by the lack of time and the scripts he had to follow. He went on record stating that he wanted to run his own *Dan Dare* studio to bring back our hero to his true self - *but the trouble was no-one in the right places was listening.* So when I telephoned him with the project idea he jumped at it, with the proviso that he had editorial control - *he was determined that no out-of-place or uncharacteristic things would happen this time!*

As luck would have it, we were in tune with each other's thinking and he liked the story. We both agreed that *Lex O'Malley, Stripey and Flamer Spry* should have cameo roles to give the yarn a more realistic edge, and save space. In all we spent many hours on the telephone debating details, as it was so important to us.



However, Keith was unable to start on the venture for some time due to other commitments, but we did discuss the new *Explorer* (later called the *Marco Polo*) spacecraft a lot, and by October 1992 deck plans were being passed back and forth.

In February 1993 Keith felt we had got her right and spent three weeks on a visual of her. I picked this up in March and proudly displayed it at the annual *Eagle Society* dinner the following month. It caused a *sensation* and the remaining unsponsored pages were booked on the strength of it! Now there was even talk of a possible follow on story!

(When I told the unassuming Keith that we had sponsors for all the boards he was amazed, - I then commented we could keep him going for years!)

KEITH WATSON'S *MARCO POLO* SPACECRAFT VISUAL (before detail corrections)

Keith worked on page one for three months, experimenting with frame one more than fifty times, wanting to get it just right. *(Every spacecraft on this page can be accounted for in Reign of the Robots.)* His difficulties were compounded in trying to find the right kind of artboard to work on. *(An ongoing problem, I might add!)* When Keith sent the page to me at the beginning of May 1993, I spent an hour soaking up all that lovely detail before I could tear myself away just to notify him *(by telephone)* of its safe arrival! Now we were up and running - *fantastic* - everything looked great - but sadly a tragic chain of events was about to unfold.

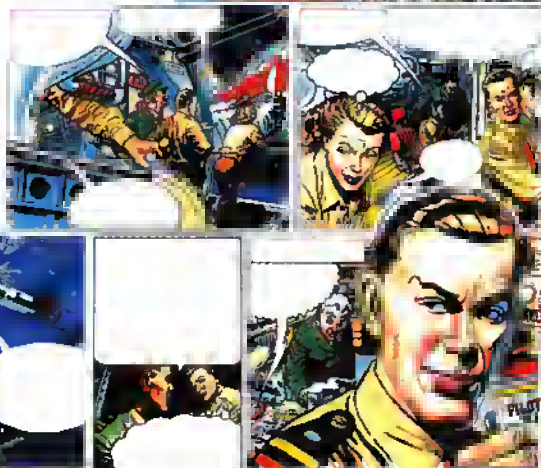
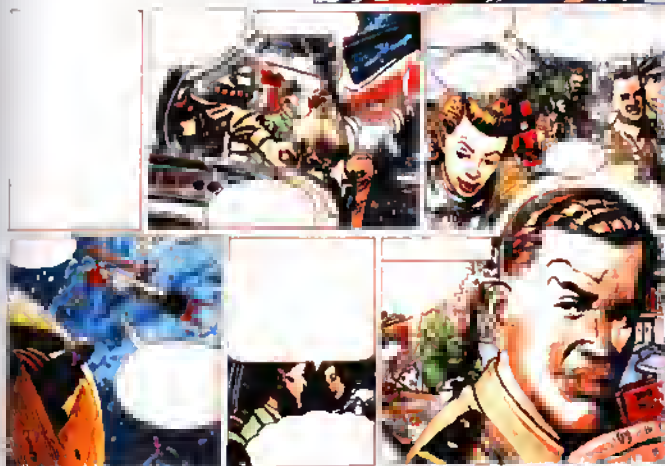
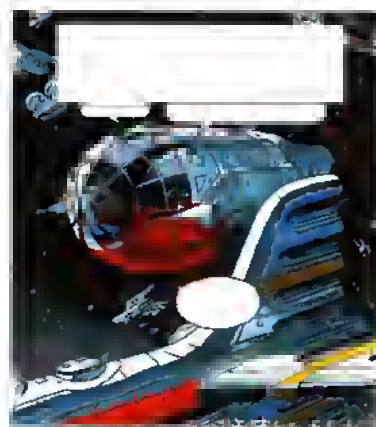
Keith's two versions of the opening page

Seen here as they were before the title boxes and the lettering have been added. *Compare this with the finished page - it's a good demonstration of how effected the red Eagle logo box is in setting off the artwork, and what a difference the lettering make to a page.*

The hand painted page one rough



The airbrushed version.



The final story page used the best from both boards.

DARK DAYS AND TRAGIC EVENTS . . .

Keith hadn't been feeling his usual self for a while, so a few days after completing page one he visited his doctor and was sent for tests. The results were devastating - *cancer*. Surgery revealed it to be too far advanced to do anything about it and at extremely low ebb, Keith shut himself off from the world. This wonderful, modest, very talented, warm-hearted man, passed away on April 9th, 1994. A sad and great loss to all. In the three years that I had known him we had become friends, often chatting on the phone. *And now he was gone.*

This wasn't the only blow, as eight days before, one of our most active project supporters - *Simon Garrett** - also died. Just about everything seemed to be against us. These cruel twists of fate having robbed us of our artist (*plus his doorway to New Eagle*), along with Simon's wit, flair, and page sponsorship.

The Phoenix venture had meant a lot to both men - Keith dearly wanted to do it for the fans, and as a tribute to his *Dan Dare* mentor, *Frank Hampson*. (*He insisted that Frank be credited as creator of the strip, which I whole-heartily agreed with.*) I felt that it would be an even more tragic waste if it all ended now after such a magnificent start. The least I could do would be to finish it as a tribute to both of them and get it published. After Keith's funeral I promised his family that I would somehow do so.

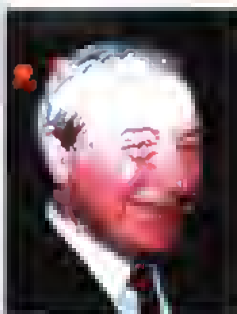
If anything these events made me more determined than ever that this project *would be finished* and their good work not wasted.

EAGLE TIMES (Vol.7 No.2) Summer 1994 issue, paid tribute to both Keith and Simon.



* (As a lasting credit to Simon, his name was added to the *Daily World Post* page as the *Spacefleet* correspondent. After all he had written 80% of it.)

FROM THE ASHES - THE PHOENIX RISES . . .



Don Harley



Alan Vince

We needed another established *Dan Dare* artist to finish the strip and the obvious choice was **Don Harley**. But as I had only met him briefly in 1992, it fell to **Alan Vince** to field the approach for us. Don agreed - *well done Alan!* This was all the more amazing because I later learned what Don (*who was in the audience at the launch*) had thought at the time : - **"Thank goodness I'm not doing that !"**

Don already had lots of commitments, so he would have to fit it in around those. This would result in much *stop go, stop go*, over the forthcoming years, but it would get done. His first page was completed in July 1994, so now the Phoenix Mission was living up to its name in real life, rising from the ashes.

Things begin to go right again. Another sponsor stepped in to cover Simon's page and **Patrick Hawkey** learned of the project. A meeting with Patrick and some of our group is arranged for August. He was impressed and wanted to include it in one of his *Dan Dare* 'Hawk' books but realising we have a long way to go, suggested meeting the following spring.

In November, Don completed page three and a rough for page four just in time for me to take it to a brand new *Eagle* event - an *Eagle Day*. (*More about that over the page*) And in the spring of 1995, *Eagle Times* (Vol. 8 No. 1), featured some partially coloured Phoenix frames from boards two and three on its cover.



A closer look reveals one different picture than the final version. Some frames were redrawn or revised later. I will be doing a feature on why, and what the old frames looked like in a future issue of *SPACESHIP AWAY*.

THE FIRST EAGLE DAY . . .

BOB ROTHWELL'S GROUND BREAKING EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

EAGLE DAY - UPDATE

Your chance to meet other Eagle enthusiasts and see many rare Eagle items!

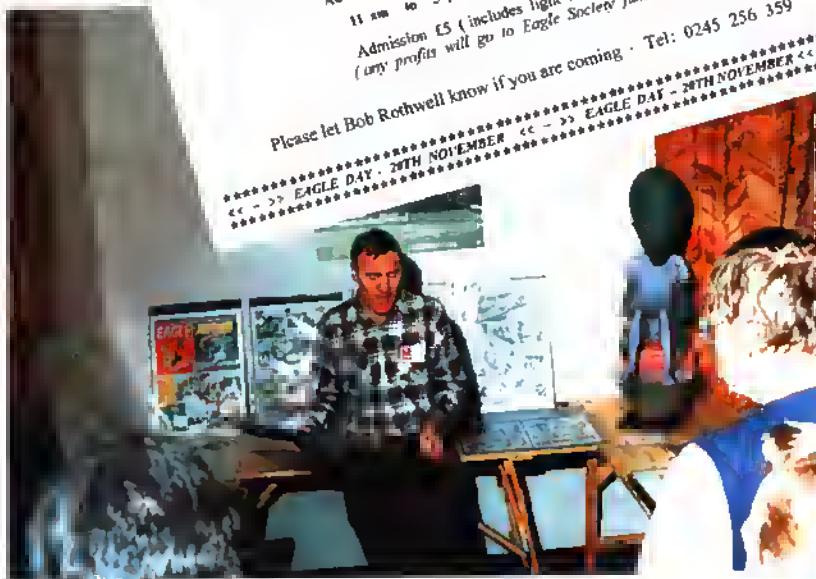
- Over a hundred original Eagle anboards
- Frank Hampson studio photos and notes (some never displayed before)
- Full size Mekon model made under Hampson's direction for the Science Museum
- Phoenix Mission Artwork (Rod Barziley will be on hand to answer questions)
- Norwegian - Dutch and Australian EAGLES on show
- Take part in the battle for Mekonta miniature war game
- Rare Eagle toys and spin-offs on display
- Talk and advice on collecting
- Eagle related videos on show
- Raffle
- Bring, buy and swap (unload those Eagle spares, and get your wants!)

ALL at MARGARETTING VILLAGE HALL - ESSEX
11 am to 5 pm - Sunday 28th November
Admission £5 (includes light refreshments)
(any profits will go to Eagle Society funds)

Please let Bob Rothwell know if you are coming - Tel: 0245 256 359

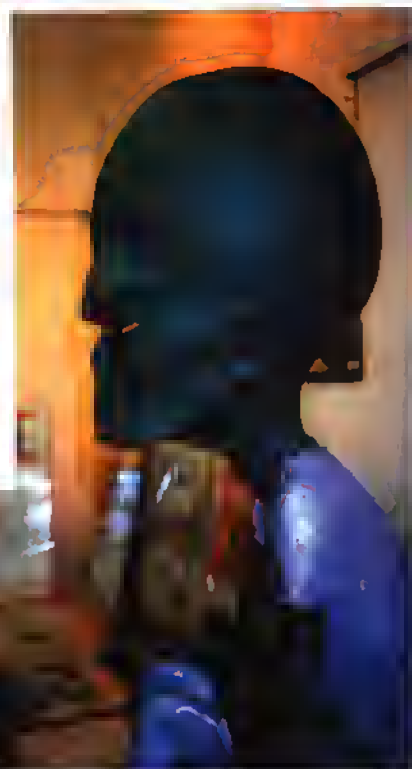


Bob greets his guests.



Rod rattles on!

(Heavens, I did look younger then!)



And the little Green chappie in the corner is not amused!

This was the brilliant idea of **Bob Rothwell** - a day where for a modest fee Eagle fans could get together to see rare items, artwork, swops and sales, and meet lots of other fans. I attend with all the Phoenix stuff (*plans, artboards etc.*), and give a presentation. The event is a great success all round. I met a number of people I've never seen before, and two of them fell under the spell of Keith's *Marco Polo* and wanted to become involved. *Andy Boyce* offered to refine my spaceship plans and *Mike Wood* was keen to build a model of the spacecraft.

Over the coming years more *Eagle Days* would follow in different venues around the country. I made it a point to try and attend every event as I would meet fans I hadn't met before and often their skills and resources would come on board the project.

But none of this would have happened if it wasn't for Bob and his team of helpers - fans like Derek Wilson, Terry Imrie, Ted Herbert, David Britton, Bob Robinson and Tony Cowley.

STOP PRESS! - MORE DAN DARE TO COME . . .

Just as this issue is about to be printed, we have news of more *Dan Dare* stories to come! Starting in Part 2 is *Project Pluto* by *Nicholas Hill* and *Martin Baines*; a strip started some years ago on the web, and now to be redrawn especially for us!

In addition, we are looking into ways that Dr. Denis Steeper's unpublished master trilogy; Pirates of Numidol, The Destroyer of Worlds and Operation Terra Nova could be brought to you.

Coming in future issues

The rest of the *Phoenix Mission* story.
Frank Hampson - Studio references.
Problems of script writing *Dan Dare*.
Spaceship plans and cutaways.
Models made by *Mike Wood & Sid Clark*.
The *Project Pluto* strip.
Hidden and replaced frames.
The National Comic Awards.
The BBC interest.
How a page develops - roughs etc.
The *Green Nemesis* saga.
The continuing adventures of *Dan Bear*.



PART 2 OUT FEBRUARY 2004

DAN BEAR

By
Andy
Boyce

Our story begins
at the offices of
the European
Parliament
(Scientific Dept)

Thanks to a special
pass, we can show you
a secret
meeting...

EUROPEAN SPACE
AGENCY

ADMIT ONE
ADULT

YOUR LUCKY
0012654215

The seventieth
meeting of this
agency will now
continue

The next thing to discuss
is the Anglo-French
rocket -

The British rocket
is jolly good...

No! The French
Eiffel Rocket is
superior!

Outside, a
foreign power is
listening in

Z

Launch a rocket
- us?

2 Weeks!

THAT'S IT!
You lot have two
weeks to get a
rocket launched, or
no more funds!

No money?

Eh?
What?
Lunch?

The next morning, there is
a hasty visit to the
launching site.

Hey - we
never agreed to
that being built!

Looks
expensive!

TO THE
SECRET
BASE

To be
continued

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